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Patent Application

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Pryor et al.

Group: 2764

Serial No.: 08/791,724

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Examiner: Kemper, M
Group 2700

For: Method of Predicting a Change in an Economy

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AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed 9/3/1998, and submit the following in complete response thereto, and request reconsideration of the Claims presented.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 9.

REMARKS

In further support of the Claims presented, Applicants provide the following discussion.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

The Office rejected Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over "Microsimulated Transactions Model" in view of *Leijonhufvud*.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a method for predicting a change in an economy. The Specification teaches, and the Claims embrace, representing decision-makers by a plurality of software agents, where each agent comprises internal state and decision rules governing its actions. Agents can generate output messages and internal state changes responsive to input